

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 136 REESTABLISHING THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

WHEREAS, the increasing realization of the importance of volunteerism and civic participation, the growing recognition of community service as a means of community and state problem-solving, and the revival of national services as an avenue for addressing many of the country's unmet social, environmental, educational, and public safety needs have revealed new options for enhancing the quality of life for North Carolinians; and,

WHEREAS, promoting the capability of North Carolina's people, communities, and enterprises to work collaboratively is vital to the long-term prosperity of this state; and

WHEREAS, building and encouraging community services as an integral part of the formula to our growth as a state and as a nation requires cooperative efforts by the public sector, the private sector, the nonprofit sector, and partnerships among these sections; and

WHEREAS, a State Commission is necessary to advise and assist in the development of a comprehensive, statewide service plan for promoting volunteer involvement and citizen participation in North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

Section 1. Establishment

The North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service ("Commission") is hereby established to encourage community service and volunteer participation as a means of community and state problem-solving; to promote and support voluntary citizen involvement in government and private programs throughout the state; to develop a long-term, comprehensive vision and plan of action for community service initiatives

in North Carolina; and to serve as the state's liaison to national and state organizations which support its mission.

Section 2. Membership Composition

- a. All members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor. It shall consist of no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 members. Not more than 50 percent of the Commission plus one member may be from the same political party. To the extent possible, it shall be diverse in race, ethnicity, age, disability, and gender. Terms shall be for three years and shall be staggered.
- b. The Commission shall include:
 - 1. An individual with expertise in the educational, training, and developmental needs of youth, particularly disadvantaged youth.
 - 2. An individual with experience in promoting the involvement of older adults in service and volunteerism.
 - 3. A representative of community-based agencies or community-based organizations within the State.
 - 4. The Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction, or his designee.
 - 5. A representative of local governments in the State.
 - 6. A representative of local labor organizations in the State.
 - 7. A representative of business.
 - 8. At least two Commission members shall be individuals between the ages of 16 and 25 who are service providers or recipients in a volunteer or service program.
 - 9. A representative of the Corporation for National and Community Service described in Section 122(a) of the United States Public Law 103-82 ("P.L."), as a non-voting, ex officio member.
 - 10. A designee from the Governor's Office and the Director of the Department of Public Instruction's Learn and Serve School-Based Program shall serve as non-voting ex-officio members.
- c. The Commission may include:
 - 1. Members selected from among local educators.
 - 2. Members selected from among experts in the delivery of human, educational, environmental, or public safety services to communities and persons.
 - 3. Representatives of Native American tribes.
 - 4. Members selected from among out-of-school youth or other "at-risk" youth.
 - 5. Representatives of entities that receive assistance under the domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4950 et seq.).
- d. Not more than 25 percent of the Commission members may be employees of state government, though additional state agency representatives may sit on the Commission as non-voting, ex officio members.

- e. Vacancies among the members shall be filled by the Governor to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 3. Officers

The Officers of the Commission shall be Chair and Vice-Chair. All officers shall be elected by the voting Commission members from among their ranks and officers shall serve for a term of one year. Vacancies in any offices shall be filled with an election by the Commission for the remainder of the unexpired term.

- a. Chair: It shall be the responsibility of the Chair to preside at all meetings of the Commission; to appoint all committee chairs; to assist all committee chairs in the planning of committee activities; to supervise all chairs as to the management of committee plans; to authorize and execute the wishes of the board; and to be an ex officio member of all committees.
- b. Vice-Chair: The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair, and, in the absence of the Chair, perform those duties. The Vice-Chair shall accept special assignments from the Chair and perform other duties as delegated by the Commission.

Section 4. Standing Committees

The Standing Committees shall advise and assist the Commission in carrying out its duties and responsibilities. Committee chairs shall be appointed by the Commission Chair from among Commission members, but the committees' members need not be limited to commission members. The Commission Chair, in consultation with the Committee Chairs, shall name the committees' members. Standing Committees of the Commission may include:

- a. Volunteer Recognition: The Standing Committee on Volunteer Recognition shall assist with the implementation of Governor's awards relating to exemplary volunteer service in the State; work with individual communities to develop local recognition programs; and explore additional opportunities to recognize individuals and organizations addressing community needs through volunteer service.
- b. Evaluation: The Standing Committee on Evaluation shall evaluate each program funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (described in the P.L. 103-82) and state organizations which support the purpose of the Commission to assure their on-going quality.
- c. Community Collaboration: The Standing Committee on Community Collaboration shall promote communication and information sharing between state and local private and public initiatives to meet community needs.

- d. Resource Development: The Standing Committee on Resource Development shall develop and implement strategies to secure local, state, and federal resources to reinforce, expand, and initiate quality community programs across the state.
- e. Training: The Standing committee on Training will develop and implement strategies for training and technical assistance to community service programs, potential grant applicants and State commission-funded programs, as well as work towards building service program partnerships statewide.
- f. Service Learning: The Standing Committee on Service Learning will act as a liaison between the State commission, private and public institutions of higher education and the Department of Public Instruction to shape the service learning state plan and promote service learning in community-based and school-based programs and partnerships across the state.

Section 5. Meetings

The Commission shall meet at least quarterly. Failure to attend at least 75 percent of called meetings in any calendar year shall result in removal from the Commission. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of voting members.

Section 6. Duties

The Commission shall, in the performance of its tasks and functions:

- a. Ensure that its funding decisions meet all federal and state statutory requirements.
- b. Recommend innovative, creative, statewide service programs to increase volunteer participation in all age groups and community-based problem-solving among diverse participants.
- c. Develop and implement a centralized, organized system of obtaining information and technical support concerning volunteerism and community service recruitment, projects, training methods, materials, and activities throughout North Carolina. Share such information and support upon request.
- d. Promote strong interagency collaboration as an avenue for maximizing resources and provide that model on the State level.
- e. Provide public recognition and support of individual volunteer efforts and successful or promising private sector initiatives and public/private partnerships which address community needs.
- f. Stimulate increased community awareness of the impact of volunteer services in North Carolina.

- g. Utilize local, state, and federal resources to reinforce, expand, and initiate quality service programs.
- h. Serve as the state's liaison and voice to appropriate national and state organizations which support its mission.
- i. Prepare a national three-year service plan for the State which follows state and federal guidelines.
- j. Prepare the financial assistance applications of the State under Sections 117B and 1301 of the P.L. 103-82.
- k. Assist in the preparation of the application of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for assistance under Section 113 of the P.L. 103-82.
- l. Prepare the State's application under Section 130 for the approval of service positions such as the national service educational award described in Subtitle D of the P.L. 103-82.
- m. Make technical assistance available to enable applicants for assistance under Section 121 to plan and implement service programs; and to apply for assistance under the federal service laws such as the P.L. 103-82.
- n. Assist in the provision of health care and child care benefits under Section 140 to participants in national service programs that receive assistance under Section 121 of the P.L. 103-82.
- o. Develop a state system for the recruitment and placement of participants in programs that receive assistance under the national service laws and disseminate information concerning national service programs that receive such assistance or approved national service positions.
- p. Administer the State's grant program in support of national service programs (using assistance provided to the State under Section 121 of the P.L. 103-82) including selection, oversight, and evaluation of grant recipients.
- q. Coordinate its functions (including recruitment, public awareness, and training activities) with any division of the federal ACTION program or the Corporation for National and Community Services outlined in the P.L. 103-82.

Section 7. Administration and Expenses

The Governor's Office shall provide necessary administrative and staff support services to the Commission. The Commission is authorized to accept funds and in-kind services from other state and federal entities, as authorized by the North Carolina State Budget Act. No

per diem allowance shall be paid to members of the Commission. Members of the Commission and staff may receive necessary travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with state law. These expenses shall be paid from federal funds where possible. If federal funds are not available, these expenses may be paid only if the Governor's Office has sufficient funds.

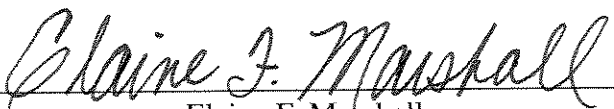
This executive order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this seventh day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.




Michael F. Easley
Governor

ATTEST:


Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State